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HALF-BACK WEAKNESS

By A. Jarvis

In watching various teams in action this season it has been very noticeable that one particular feature is conspicuous by its absence. That is, the weakness in most teams of the half-back lines from the point of view of co-ordination with the forwards as feeders. The average half-back is content to rob his opponent and immediately dispose of the ball as if it were a hot brick, instead of carrying it upfield and after drawing an opponent, placing the ball to the advantage of a team mate in such a way that he does not have to battle for the ball. Give it to him on the ground and if possible behind his opponent then you will see an improvement in forward play instead of what we invariably see, that is, forwards competing for the ball in the air with backs and half backs.

The half-back line is the most important in any team and it will pay clubs to coach these players along the right lines, and to see that the juniors also receive the benefits of this coaching.

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JUNIORS TO HAVE COLUMN

In response to several requests it has been decided to give reports of Junior games a separate column in the "News" each week, and all Clubs running Junior teams are invited to forward reports of reasonable length to the Editor and thus help to make our publication of interest to the boys.

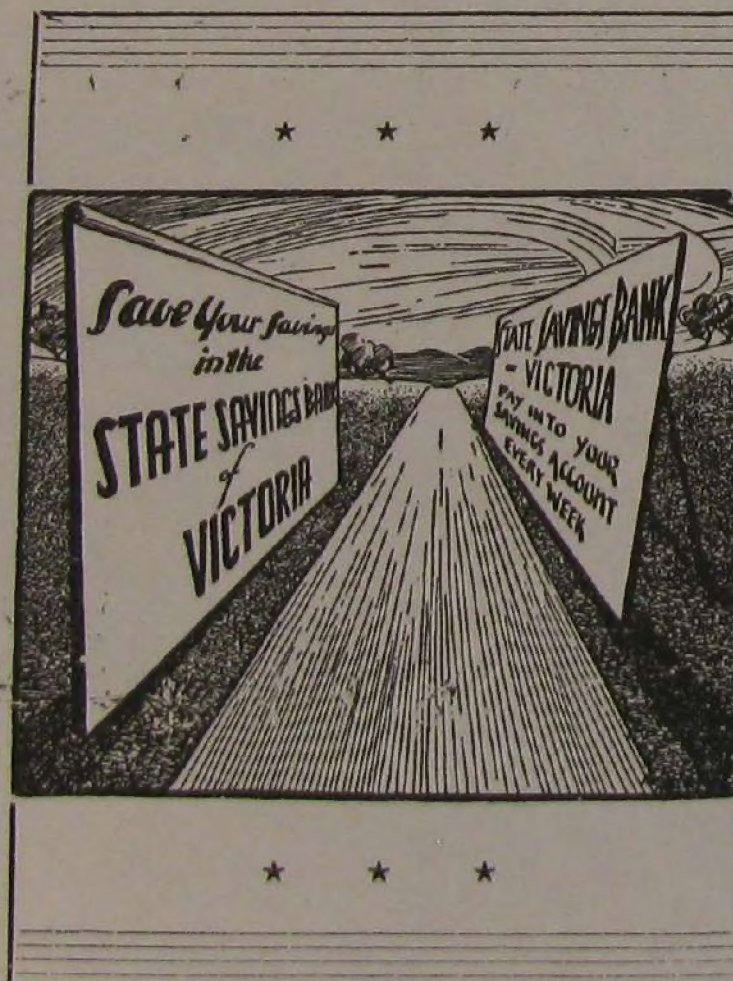
They like to see their names in the paper as goal scorers or as best players, so include these details and give your report the personal touch as shown by the article elsewhere in this issue.

It would be appreciated if Junior reports are written out separately from Senior games and clearly noted with the age group referred to which will help the printer considerably in arranging the linotyping.

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SCREEN PUBLICITY

During the forthcoming week the Association's screen slide will be shown at "Empire Theatre," Brunswick, and "Regal Theatre," Hartwell.



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Saturday, 10th July, 1948

An Open Letter To Mr. Soccerite

By F. J. HALL

I have spoken to a lot of people about "Soccer News" since the first publication—I suppose you have too—but what made me introduce the subject to so many people was because I thought that soccer had made a big step in the right direction by producing such a booklet. It seemed to me to be a step at a very appropriate time, because the code, like some other types of amateur sport only just managed to struggle through the war period.

I suppose you are parallel in thought with me when I say how grateful we should be to those few die-hard stalwarts who carried on the administration with a good measure of credit to themselves and the game in those overshadowed days of the 1939-45 war.

To be quite frank about it, my enthusiasm was cooled down a bit by the first publication—it seemed to me to want just something more—I could not quite tell you what—but it lacked something personal, it is hard to describe it. I did think that I would write and tell the Editor, but then on second thoughts I concluded that criticism was of no material value, because a publication is rather like a ship in comparison—you cannot launch it till it is properly built, and what is more important—you can make small technical changes which will create a better performance in the trials.

"Soccer News" did make a few changes and I think improved its news value to a point

where it has earned more than a "pass credit" today.

I am not in the position to know very much of the administrative side of the publication, the Editor will tell you of that as time goes on, but like many others, I want to see the future with a "bigger and better still" paper.

It is at this point Mr. Soccerite that you and I are on common ground because we are both readers and we both enjoy even looking at a schoolboy side playing the game.

You and I may express our views in different ways and on some points we may not agree in principle, but still whether we agree or not is immaterial because after all, an article which you or I may write is only an expression of a train of thought the object of which is to create interest.

I know Mr. Soccerite that you have many friends who know the game well, some are still playing, others come to your game each Saturday—one or two are never absent—there is the fellow with the cap and heavy grey overcoat and that chap with the boxer hat and walking stick, either of them could contribute a worth while article or a newsy experience if it were put to him—and again, what about that new fellow who arrived from another country some months ago, he should have a fund of stories.

I believe we have to get all those fellows right behind the Editor because any one of

them may be able to come away with an idea as to a very practical system of acquiring a real soccer ground of our very own, and the only way of reaching all the interested people is by means of this journal.

I shall write you again sometime in the future but for the meantime while I am away, will you tell your friends on Saturday that the Editor would be glad to get their ideas on paper and in conclusion I want to tell you one more important thing and that is—the Editor did not ask me to write to you, in fact he does not know me, so, you must accept this letter as one between you and me but concerning everyone who is as interested in soccer as we two are.

★ ★ ★

SCHOOLBOY INTERSTATE SELECTION

The Schoolboy Interstate Selectors were confronted with the difficult task of selecting a side of fifteen boys to represent Victoria in interstate matches.

A game was played last Sunday week against Brighton's Under 17 team, which terminated in a draw—4 goals each.

After two previous elimination games between possibles and probables, eighteen boys were thoroughly tried out until the following fifteen were selected:—

Jones (South Melb.), McEwan (Brighton), Borlase (South Melb.), Dixon (Brighton), Carter (Preston), Simpson (South Melb.), Peachey (Preston), Gribbin (Brighton), Jordan (Brighton), Stiles (South Melb.), James (South Melb.), Forfar (South Melb.), Hatley (Sunshine), Clarke (Preston), and Richer (Sunshine).

A large number of spectators witnessed the game against Brighton on Sunday week, and it is expected that a similar crowd will witness another very fine performance tomorrow.

The way in which our young players are performing in these practice games, augers well for their respective clubs in the future as their senior players.

Now is the time for all clubs to foster juniors, especially the boys of school age. For the preparation of their future with senior divisions it is essential that individual practical coaching, combined with constructive criticism, talks on tactics, and various methods of play, be taught to them.

PROSPECT FOR TODAY

With only four rounds of League games to be played in the two main divisions, interest is now centred upon who will be promoted and who will be relegated for the 1949 season.

Moreland against Park Rangers and Yallourn against Brighton, will be striving hard to improve their positions, as both are running sixth and seventh, with an equal number of points, on the premiership ladder. A defeat at this stage by either of them will place them in a very difficult position. The youthfulness of the Yallourn team may help them a little, but they are up against a side of experienced footballers, but anything can happen in a match where a defeat might mean relegation, and the game at Hurlingham Park should be a very even contest with a real Cup-tie flavour about it.

The same applies at Campbell Reserve, where the home team Moreland will be up against the Park Rangers' eleven.

Western Suburbs, if they produce the same standard of football that they defeated Sunshine by last Saturday, may give trouble to Box Hill. Suburbs are on the bottom of the Division One ladder, whilst their opponents, Box Hill are running second.

The remaining First Division game, Prahran versus Sunshine United, will be played at Como Park. Sunshine, who has lost its last two games after having won all its previous contests, will be out to regain its lost prestige. Prahran are still in danger of relegation however, and will not make the game too easy for their visitors.

In the Second Division, the main game of the day will be played at Olympic Park, where the home team Hakoah will meet Bradford, the division two leaders. Bradford are in a comfortable position for the premiership honours and ultimate promotion to the main division, and has a three point lead over its nearest opponents.

Bradford will be all out to retain this lead, but Hakoah are still not out of the promotion race, and will be striving hard to improve its position. South Melbourne United, second on the merit chart, cannot afford to lose a single game of its remaining matches, as South Yarra, Coburg and Hakoah, are chasing them solidly for the coveted second position, which carries with it the right of accompanying the

winning team of League to the First Division, United beat Coburg last time they met by 5 goals to 2, but on their home ground, it is possible that Coburg may turn the tables.

Ringwood and Northcote are in an almost impossible position to avoid relegation to the Third Division, and five teams in that division, Heidelberg, George Cross, University, Olympic, and Yarraville, are running very close in their bid to take their places.

The two main games in the lower division today will be staged between Heidelberg and Olympic, and University and George Cross.

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RESULTS OF LAST SATURDAY'S CUP-TIES

DOCKERTY CUP (Second Round)

Western Suburbs 1 d. Sunshine United 0.
Preston 6 d. Williamstown 0.
Park Rangers 6 d. Metters 0.
Yallourn 3 d. Ringwood 1.
Box Hill 4 Hakoah J.R.C. 1.
Coburg 3 d. Northcote 0.
South Yarra 3 d. Brighton 2.
Bradford v. South Melbourne United match not played.

RESERVE CUP (Second Round)

Park Rangers walk over from Coburg.
Yallourn walk over from Sunshine United.
Western Suburbs walk over from Northcote.
South Melbourne United 3 d. Prahran 2 (after extra time).
South Yarra 1 d. Heidelberg 0.
Preston 2 d. Moreland 0.
Bradford 8 d. Box Hill 3.
Brighton v. Hakoah J.R.C. result not to hand.

JUNIOR CUP (Second Round)

Prahran 4 d. Hakoah J.R.C. 1.
Park Rangers 3 d. Preston 1.
Brighton 2 d. Yallourn 1.
Box Hill 4 d. South Yarra 1.

MILLER CUP (Semi-Finals)

Box Hill 2 d. Coburg 0.
South Melbourne United 3 (Prest 2, Thwaites 1) d. Preston 0.

DUNKLING SHIELD (Semi-Finals)

Brighton 3 d. Sunshine United 0.
South Melbourne United walk over from Ringwood.

THIRD DIVISION LEAGUE GAME

(Postponed from 26th June)
Olympic 4 d. George Cross 3.

DRAW FOR CUP TIES—17th JULY

Dockerty Cup (Third Round)

Western Suburbs v. Preston
Park Rangers v. Yallourn, at Olympic Park
Box Hill v. Bradford
Coburg v. South Yarra

NOTE.—In the second round of the Dockerty Cup, Bradford and South Melbourne United agreed after the failure of the official referee to appear to appoint a referee, when the referee was ready to start the game South Melbourne United then stated they would not play. The Executive of the Association therefore awarded the game to Bradford Club.

Reserve Cup (Third Round)

Park Rangers v. South Yarra
South Melbourne United v. Preston
Yallourn v. Bradford
Western Suburbs v. Brighton

Junior Cup (Semi-Finals)

Prahran v. Brighton
Park Rangers v. Box Hill

Miller Cup (Final)

South Melbourne United v. Box Hill

Dunkling Shield (Final)

Brighton v. South Melbourne United

★ ★ ★

A BRIEF REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S CUP TIES

Western Suburbs and South Yarra caused sensations on Saturday by their defeats of the Cup favorites, Sunshine United and Brighton.

In their two league games with Sunshine, Suburbs were defeated 11-0 and 2-0, but on Saturday completely turned the tables on their neighbors, and won by the only goal of the match.

South Yarra, it is reported won their game at Olympic Park on their merits. Yarra are the holders of the Cup, and it was expected that Brighton, after their defeat of the Division One leaders the previous Saturday, would have very little trouble in reaching the third round, but quite often the unexpected happens in cup-tie football, and this was the case on Saturday.

Metters and Williamstown, the only two Third Division teams to compete in the second round, were easily defeated by Park Rangers (First Division) and Preston (Second Division), the result of both games being 6-0.

Box Hill's win over Hakoah, now makes them favorites for the 1948 Cup honours.

CLUB JOTTINGS

DOCKERTY CUP

Under Par

Box Hill and Hakoah are both capable of better football than was demonstrated in the Dockerty Cup match played at Surrey Park last Saturday. The home team was not the forceful side in front of goal during the first half, while the visitors appeared to have "had it" in the latter portion of the second half, a weakness which enabled Box Hill to penetrate the defence three times during the last session. Much credit must be given to the goalkeepers of both teams for their splendid custodianship.

Goal-scorers for Box Hill: Warry, Hutchinson, Tester, and Gravell, whilst for Hakoah: Pollitzer was their scorer.

Losing Team Congratulates South Yarra

Congratulations are tendered by the Brighton Club, on South Yarra's Dockerty Cup success against their first team on Saturday at Olympic Park. The clean way the South Yarra players played the game is admired by the Brighton players and officials, and Brighton has no excuses to offer for their defeat.

PARK RANGERS EASY VICTORY

In a Dockerty Cup tie at Middle Park, the home side, Park Rangers had a comfortable win of 6 goals to nil against Metters, a Third Division team. The visitors should not be discouraged as they showed distinct signs of better things to come.

The Rangers backs and half backs had little difficulty in dealing with spasmodic raids by the visiting forwards. Purdon, playing in defence, and goalie Williams made many excellent saves for Metters, although the pressure by the Rangers forwards forced them to make occasional mistakes.

Three For Wilson

The score at half time was 2-0, Wilson and P. Clark being the successful marksmen. In the second half, four more goals were added by Wilson (2), Mackie and Cottrill, the latter beating the goalie with a first-time drive from a pass from Wilson, perhaps the best goal of the match.

Heading The Ball

In these notes, I have tried to give the players hints on how to improve their play. A further comment re heading would not be out of place here. Although it is not always possible, the ball should be taken on the forehead rather than on the top of the head. In this way, the ball is sent forward and downwards, rather than up into the air. With good timing the ball can be sent well forward and at a good speed. The eye should be kept on the ball until the point of impact.

Perhaps the Rangers' forwards could answer these two questions: "How many goals has the team scored from headers this season?" "How many times has the ball been headed over the bar instead of under it?"

Club Dance Tonight

The Park Rangers Club will hold another of their very popular dances tonight, at the Christ Church Hall, Acland Street, St. Kilda.

Preston Hit The Jack-Pot

In their match against Williamstown, Preston forwards were on top and gave "Willy" goalie much work to do. He did a good job however, and saved some really difficult shots. Good soaring centres gave the Preston forwards excellent opportunities for netting the ball which they did six times during the match. Preston now enters the third round of the Cup with high hopes. Crompvoetts, Morgan, Nash and Humphries, shared the goals, with Pickering taking the honours as Preston's most outstanding player.

Yarra's Goal-Getter Off To Queensland

J. Johnson, South Yarra's star centre-forward and goal-getter played his farewell game on Saturday against Brighton in the Dockerty Cup match played at Olympic Park.

At a social gathering of members and supporters of the Club, held at Mr. C. Brown's home last Saturday evening, Yarra's President, Mr. W. MacCombie expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson the very best wishes of the Club on their journey to Queensland, and as a token of esteem, Johnson was presented with a wallet and Mrs. Johnson with a handbag. Johnson in reply thanked the Club very sincerely for the presentations, and stated that should he ever return to Melbourne, he certainly would seek out his old Club first.

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(Johnson will certainly be missed by soccer in Victoria, and in expressing my best wishes to him on his move to Queensland, I hope that he will cause the same headaches to Queensland defenders as he has caused to our teams' defenders. I am sure that all soccer fans in Victoria will wish him the very best).

RESERVE CUP

Extra Time In Cup Match

South Melbourne United's Reserve team won its way into the third round of the Reserve Cup on Saturday, in what was one of the most thrilling cup matches played at Middle Park since pre-war. Despite the fact that it was a reserve match, it contained all the thrills of a Dockerty Cup match when both teams are fighting hard to gain the winning goal. Both Prahran, their opponents, and the local team were giving their best, and at the end of the ninety minutes of play scores were level, two goals each. Extra time of fifteen minutes each way was ordered, and soon after the resumption, Eric Lilley, United's inside-right scored the winning goal for his team.

Both teams continued to press hard and often, but the game finished with no goals being added, United winning by 3 goals to 2.

Preston Defeats Moreland

Preston and Moreland Reserve teams did battle last Saturday with the final score being in Preston's favour, 2 goals to nil. For Preston, the Rees, Scaife, Hume and Plummer combination was the telling factor with the two first named scoring the goals. Ernie Rees suggests that the title of the Reserve League be changed to "Rees"-serves League.

Brighton Wins Despite Weaknesses

Brighton Reserves who so far are undefeated this season, were too strong for Hakoah on Saturday, despite the fact that they were weakened by the absence of Tommy Lowe and H. Walker, who were playing for the first team against South Yarra.

Brighton's team is efficiently managed by Mr. Jow Finney, whose son Alf, is a regular playing member.

Several players are worthy of promotion to the first team, and it is unfortunate for them that their places in the first team are also filled by capable players. Their chance will come.

Bradford Superior

Bradford Reserves were better able to accommodate themselves to the No. 2 Oval than were Box Hill Reserves, who generally use the No. 1 ground for their home matches.

Bradford were superior on the day, and scored a comfortable victory, thus qualifying them for the third round of the Reserve Cup.



JUNIOR SECTION—JUNIOR CUP

Speed Paid Dividends

Forcing the pace early in the Junior Cup game against South Yarra on Saturday, paid good dividends for Box Hill's Under 19 team, and gave them a commanding lead which they held to the finish.

Montgomery, Bell and Overall were match winners for the Box Hill team.

Yallourn's Stubborn Resistance

The Brighton Under 19 team which has carried all before it in the Junior League so far this season, met stubborn resistance from

Yallourn on Saturday, and it was only a penalty goal scored late in the game that won the game for Brighton by the odd goal in three.

Park Rangers Again Upsets Preston's Cup Chance

Park Rangers once again put paid to Preston's Junior Cup efforts on Saturday, when the Rangers won the day by 3 goals to one.

Brett put Preston's only goal up, whilst O'Brien and Giles played sound football.

"Curly" Hughes played like a trojan for Rangers. How many Junior Cup finals now "Curly"?

Prahran Forwards Shine

After having a slight delay in the kick off at the Hakoah J.R.C. versus Prahran game, both teams got away to a good start. Hakoah won the toss and decided to kick with the wind. Prahran forwards were very nippy and took full advantage of low short passes which resulted in the inside left of Prahran, Bailey, opening the score with a beautiful first time shot after twenty minutes play. Hakoah's defence played hard to feed their forwards but were no match for the Prahran forwards who put on two more goals before half time, 3-0.

The second half opened up with Hakoah pressing hard which got them a beautiful goal taken by the centre forward from a long pass from the left-wing. Prahran then got a gift goal which was accidentally knocked through the Hakoah goal by their own fullback. Hakoah pressed very hard but could not penetrate the Prahran defence. Final Score: Prahran 4 d. Hakoah 2.

MILLER CUP

South Melbourne Juniors Into Final

South Melbourne United and Preston's Under 17 teams met in the semi-final of the Miller Cup on Saturday, with United coming out on top to the extent of 3 goals to nil. Both teams played good sound football, but the United forwards took much better advantage when the opportunities of scoring were offered to them. Jack Gleave, the winning team's outside-right, centred the ball well on every occasion, and the centre and inside forwards were always in position when they were needed.

Preston's players, under the leadership of Brooker will need just a little more training if they are to do better in the League matches yet to be played.

Box Hill Also Enters Final

The two goal difference between Box Hill and Coburg's Under 17 teams, in the Miller Cup semi-final played last Saturday, was a good indication of the rating of the teams on the day.

Beveridge credited Box Hill with the two goal advantage and will now go on to meet South Melbourne United in the final.

Preston 15's At Practice

Harry Plummer put his Under 15 charges through their paces on Saturday morning, having been knocked out of the Dunderling Shield the previous round. This team hopes to maintain its good goal average despite the threat of that smart young South Melbourne side.

Improvement in recent games by Tindill, Webster, Webb, Davies, and Tiernan, is quite easily seen.

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HOW THEY STAND

First Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Sunshine United	10	8	1	1	37	12	17
Box Hill	10	6	2	2	33	21	14
Brighton	10	5	2	3	25	19	12
Park Rangers	10	4	2	4	16	20	10
Prahran	10	3	2	5	22	30	8
Yallourn	10	3	1	6	33	35	7
Moreland	10	3	1	6	19	24	7
West. Suburbs	10	1	3	6	10	34	5

Second Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Bradford	10	7	3	0	29	5	17
South Melb. United	10	6	2	2	31	12	14
South Yarra	10	5	2	3	29	15	12
Coburg	10	5	1	4	31	23	11
Hakoah J.R.C.	10	5	1	4	20	17	11
Preston	10	4	1	5	22	34	9
Ringwood	10	1	1	8	11	34	3
Northcote	10	1	1	8	11	44	3

Third Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Melb. University	8	6	2	0	37	7	14
Heidelberg "A"	8	6	1	1	46	7	13
George Cross	8	6	1	1	26	11	13
Olympic	7	5	1	1	19	12	11
Yarraville	7	5	0	2	22	22	10
Woodlands	8	3	2	3	16	19	8
Williamstown	8	3	1	4	17	24	7
Brighton	8	3	0	5	22	26	6
Macedonians	8	2	1	5	12	24	5
Metters	8	1	1	6	11	22	3
Regent	8	1	0	7	7	29	2
Heidelberg "B"	8	1	0	7	6	38	2

First Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	10	8	2	0	47	9	18
Prahran	10	7	1	2	37	20	15
Park Rangers	10	6	2	2	37	16	14
West. Suburbs	10	5	0	5	29	46	10
Box Hill	10	4	1	5	38	23	9
Yallourn	10	3	1	6	27	41	7
Moreland	10	3	1	6	20	37	7
Sunshine United	10	0	0	10	9	52	0

Second Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
South Yarra	10	10	0	0	36	9	20
South Melb. United	10	8	0	2	52	12	16
Bradford	10	7	0	3	27	14	14
Hakoah J.R.C.	10	4	1	5	7	19	9
Preston	10	3	2	5	16	19	8
Coburg	10	2	2	6	6	16	6
Ringwood	10	2	1	7	9	37	5
Northcote	10	1	0	9	6	33	2

Under 19 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	9	9	0	0	46	4	18
Park Rangers	10	8	0	2	46	10	16
Yallourn	10	7	1	2	30	10	15
Preston	10	5	1	4	26	19	11
Coburg	9	3	3	3	16	19	9
West. Suburbs	10	4	1	5	21	28	9
Box Hill	9	3	1	5	22	23	7
Prahran	10	2	2	6	19	32	6
Hakoah J.R.C.	9	2	1	6	14	31	5
South Yarra	10	0	0	10	2	66	0

Under 17 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	10	9	0	1	39	9	18
Preston	10	9	0	1	39	12	18
Brighton	10	6	0	4	32	15	12
Sunshine United	10	3	0	7	18	30	6
Box Hill	10	2	0	8	14	32	4
Coburg	10	1	0	9	4	48	2

Under 15 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	9	8	1	0	68	5	17
Preston	8	6	2	0	37	4	14
Brighton	8	5	1	2	36	11	11
Box Hill	9	4	0	5	6	31	8
Sunshine United	9	3	0	6	11	48	6
Ringwood	8	2	0	6	6	39	4
Northcote	9	0	0	9	0	26	0

NOTE.—All above League tables include all matches where a team has claimed against opponents for walk-overs, etc. In the case of the Association not awarding the points for any particular match, the respective League table will be altered accordingly, and a notation made to such alteration.

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